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COMMENTS:We enclose the attached papers for filing in the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office in
connection with Patent Application Serial No. 09/510,937.*****
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Attorney Docket No. MP/55G

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Campbell et al.
Appl. No. : 09/510,937
Filed : 2/22/00
Title : Thin-Wall Polytetrafluoroethylene Tube

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Melanee Williams
Melanee Williams

Group Art Unit : 1772
Examiner : Rayford, Sandra M.

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

Dear Sir:

We enclose the following papers for filing in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in
connection with the above-identified Patent Application:

1. Reply to Office Action under 37 CFR 1.111 (2 pages).

Respectfully submitted,

Wayne D. House

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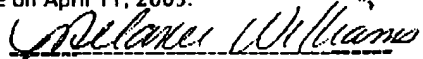
Date: April 11, 2005

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.111

Sir:

The following arguments are in reply to the Office Action mailed Jan. 10, 2005 for the above-referenced application.

I. PRELIMINARY REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application. The Examiner has withdrawn the previous 35 USC 112 and 103 rejections. Claims 1-20 are now rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness.

II. APPLICANTS' INVENTION

The present invention relates to a catheter balloon made of tube having a microstructure of nodes and fibrils such as porous expanded polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), further including a non-porous coating over the porous microstructure. The coating renders the balloon non-porous and thereby able to contain a desired inflating media (e.g., air or saline fluid). The thinness, flexibility and strength of the construction allow the resulting balloon to be collapsed to a small first diameter for insertion into a vascular conduit to a desired location at which it can be inflated to the maximum diameter of the tube in the fashion of a conventional polyethylene terephthalate (PET) catheter balloon. The balloon of the present invention is superior to such conventional balloons again due to its flexibility, thinness, strength and lubricious materials.